

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Application of                      | ) Group Art Unit: 1723  |
|---|---|
| Kuo-Liang Hsi et al.                      | ) Examiner: Ernest G. Therkorn  |
| Serial No.: 10/602,342                    | ) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  |
| Filed: June 23, 2003                      | I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on |
| For: Effluent Collection Apparatus Method | Ottobur 21, 2003  (Date of Deposit)  Plai In Ol Un U D  Name of Depositing Party  Signature of Depositing Party  )  |

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information (listed on the attached Form PTO-1449) of which they are aware, which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56.

This Information Disclosure Statement:

- (a) [ ] accompanies a new patent application submitted herewith.
- (b) [] is filed within three months after the filing date of the application or within three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.
- (c) [X] as far as is known to the undersigned, is filed before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits.
- (d) [] as far as is known to the undersigned, is filed before the mailing date of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

- (e) [] is filed after the first Office Action and more than three months after the application's filing date or PCT national stage date of entry filing but, as far as is known to the undersigned, prior to the mailing date of either a final action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either the fee (\$180) set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) or a certification as specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e), as checked below. Should any fee be due, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2213 in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the cost of this Information Disclosure Statement. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to this deposit account. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.
- (f) [] is filed after the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of allowance, but on or before the payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by the fee (\$180) set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1) and a certification as specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e), as checked below. This document is to be considered as a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2213 in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the cost of this Information Disclosure Statement. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to this deposit account. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

[If either of boxes (e) or (f) is checked above, the following "certification" under 37 CFR §1.97(e) may need to be completed.] The undersigned certifies that:

- [] Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- [] No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

A copy of the items on PTO/SB/08A is supplied herewith:

[] each [X] none [] only those listed below:

Those patent(s) or publication(s) listed in the attached PTO/SB/08A form are not supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in prior application Serial

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No. <u>08/887,350</u> filed <u>July 2, 1997</u> now U.S. Patent No. <u>6,248,239</u> which is a continuation of

application Serial No. <u>09/885, 292</u> filed <u>June 19, 2001</u> now U.S. Patent No. <u>6,582,597</u> and

relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 USC §120.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement

may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that

any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention

unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement

shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information

as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement

is in compliance with 37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609 and the Examiner is respectfully requested

to consider the listed references.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Oct. 21 2003

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|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Application Number 10/602,342 |                      |  |  |
| Filing Date                   | Date June 23, 2003   |  |  |
| First Named Inventor          | ventor Kuo-Liang Hsi |  |  |
| Group Art Unit                | 1723                 |  |  |
| Examiner Name                 | Ernest G. Therkorn   |  |  |
| Attorney Docket No.           | 4266C2               |  |  |

|           | U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                      |                                      |                               |                                 |   |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Examiner  | Cite                  | U.S. Patent Document |                                      | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Date of Publication             | Pages, Columns, Lines Where                     |
| Initials* | No.1                  | Number               | Kind Code <sup>2</sup><br>(if known) | of Cited Document             | of Cited Document<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
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|           | 2                     | 5,126,025            |                                      | Carson et al.                 | 06-30-1992                      |   |
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|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite<br>No. 1            | Office <sup>3</sup> | Foreign Patent Docume<br>Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication<br>of Cited Document<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines<br>Where Relevant Passages or<br>Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                    |                          |                     |  |                                   |  |  |  |                |

|                       |               | OTHER ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS   |                |  |  |  |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|----------------|--|--|--|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. 1 | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T <sup>2</sup> |  |  |  |
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|                       |               |   |                |  |  |  |

| Examiner  | Date       |  |
|-----------|------------|--|
| Signature | Considered |  |

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>8</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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| First Named Inventor          | Kuo-Liang Hsi      |  |  |
| Group Art Unit                | 1723               |  |  |
| Examiner Name                 | Ernest G. Therkorn |  |  |
| Attorney Docket No.           | 4266C2             |  |  |

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